

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1021

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT TH BM

SUBJ: RTG ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BURMESE INSURGENTS TO BE EXPELLED

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS CARRIED WIRE STORY FROM BANGKOK IN WHICH RTG ASSERTS SEVEN BURMESE DISSIDENT LEADERS OPERATING FROM THAILAND WILL BE EXPELLED. THOSE NAMED INCLUDE GENERAL LET YA AND TWO OF HIS DEPUTIES FROM THE PPP POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, BO YAN NAING OF THE PATRIOTIC LIBERATION ARMY (PPP ACTION ARM), TIN MAUNG WIN OF THE UNION PARTY, BOHMU AUNG OF THE ANTI-FASCIST PEOPLE'S UNITY PARTY, AND MAHN BA ZAN OF THE KAREN NATIONAL UNION. THAI DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER QUOTED AS SAYING RTG SEEKING COUNTRIES THAT WILL ACCEPT THOSE NAMED AND CITES US, UK AND AUSTRIA AS POSSIBILITIES.

2. GUB SOURCES HAVE GREETED ANNOUNCEMENT WITH LARGE AMOUNT OF SKEPTICISM, HAVING HEARD VARIOUS PROMISES OF THIS TYPE FROM THAI OFFICIALS BEFORE. HOWEVER, ONE MFA OFFICER NOTES THAT IF TRUE, GUB WOULD REGARD MOVE AS "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT" IN GUB/RTG RELATIONS EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THE INSURGENT GROUPS CITED, WITH PERHAPS THE EXCEPTIONS OF THE PPP AND THE KNU, REPRESENT LITTLE MORE THAN A NUISANCE TO THE GUB. ASKED INFORMALLY ABOUT LIKELY GUB REACTION SHOULD THE INSURGENT LEADERS SEEK ENTRY IN US, MFA SOURCE SAID "WE DON'T COMMENT ON THIS SORT OF THING" BUT ADDED PRIVATELY IT IS PREFERABLE TO HAVE INSURGENT LEADERS IN US THAN ON THAI-BURMA BORDER.

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